



Ideas for Recognizing Students for SAE Efforts

- **Awards** – There are many opportunities for chapter, state and national recognition for SAE achievement. Let students know about the award possibilities and share chapter SAE success stories. Make sure they keep up with records books and assist them with award applications.
- **Bulletin Boards** – Bulletin boards within the agriculture classroom, school hallway, lunchrooms or offices provide a convenient and inexpensive way to recognize student SAEs. Set aside a section of the bulletin board for an “SAE of the week or month,” “most improved,” “most unique,” etc. Laminate the picture and information so students can take it home after their time on the board has passed.
- **Chapter Newsletter** – Create an annual or bi-annual chapter success newsletter that highlights student SAE/FFA achievements throughout the year. Be sure to include stories about local, state and national winners as well as students with unique or innovative SAE programs that may not have been formally recognized. Distribute the newsletter to parents/guardians, school administrators, guidance counselors and other partners to keep them informed of chapter happenings.
- **FFA Programs** – In addition to proficiency and agriscience award opportunities, encourage students to apply for the FFA’s Agri-Entrepreneurship award and SAE grant programs. These programs not only provide recognition, but are a great resource for financial support. In the case of Agri-Entrepreneurship, one student from every chapter is eligible to receive matching funds from the USDA.
- **“Hall of Fame”** – Create a “Hall of Fame” in the hallway or corridor outside the classroom or agriculture department. Recognize any student who has reached the National FFA level by being a national proficiency finalist, national proficiency winner, on a national contest team, etc. Display each “Hall of Fame” member in a display box with a large color photo and list of accomplishments. You may want to keep an empty display box alongside the others so students will be inspired to be the next “famous” member.
- **Local Proficiency Recognition** – Include local proficiency awards as part of your chapter awards program. Have local individuals and businesses sponsor the awards and present them at a well-publicized annual banquet. Run a local newspaper advertisement after the banquet listing all sponsors as a “thank you” and a list of all winners as a “congratulations.”
- **Medallions** – Medallions earned for SAE efforts are a tangible reminder of student achievement and can be worn on FFA jackets. These medallions can be obtained through the National FFA Supply Service at little or no cost. Only three medals may be worn on the outside of a jacket, but extra medals can be placed on the inside zipper flap to remind members of their success.
- **Middle School Records Competition** – To keep younger members motivated about SAEs, develop a middle school record competition (your chapter or state may already have one). Have them submit a complete record book and small pictorial representation of their SAE. This offers student recognition while preparing members for future proficiency applications.

- **Partner Participation** – Encourage partners (not already involved in a recognition program) to participate in recognizing SAE efforts. For example, maybe your state FFA Foundation would like to present cash awards to students with the best record books in the state. Or, maybe the local Farm Bureau would like to award a scholarship to the “Chapter Member of the Year.”
- **Professional Excursions** – Students demonstrating a notable commitment to their SAE area can earn an opportunity to participate in a one-day professional excursion. For example, a student with a tropical fruit project can participate in an outing with a local fruit grower or scientist. Utilize your partner resources and create a database of professionals willing to participate.
- **Publicity** – Use the local newspaper and agriculture trade publications in your state to recognize student achievement. This is especially important if a student has won an award on the state or national level. Send photos and emphasize the importance of having an SAE in articles submitted to the publication. Local radio programs may also be interested in publicizing achievements.
- **Recognition Signage** – For state or national accomplishments, post a professionally painted sign on the outside or in front of the agriculture building listing student names and awards received. Make new signs for each year and hang signs from previous years in the agriculture shop.
- **“SAE Days”** – Have every student create a 4-6 minute PowerPoint presentation on their SAE and present it in front of class on designated “SAE Days.” This will allow every student to showcase their SAE to you and the class, while gaining valuable presentation and public speaking skills.
- **SAE of the Month** – Highlight two top SAE programs each month based on visits. Post these SAEs in the classroom; see if you can get a write up in the local paper or in the school paper or newsletter.
- **Scholarships** – Create a chapter scholarship awarded to graduating seniors for outstanding achievements in SAEs. Present the scholarship at the chapter banquet and/or during the year-end school awards ceremony.
- **School Notification** – Whenever you have a state or national proficiency winner, draft a short letter explaining the award, attach it to the award application and forward it to the school principal, school board, etc. This provides notification to school officials while sharing student recognition with a key audience.
- **Slide Shows/Videos** – In addition to medals and awards presented at the chapter banquet, use a slide show or narrated video to emphasize SAEs and give students recognition to the banquet crowd. Since banquets can be long, keep the production short (5 -10 minutes).
- **“Wall of Fame”** – Display a “Wall of Fame” in the agriculture department showing state and national winning proficiencies, team accomplishments and other large achievements. Perpetual plaques, shadow boxes that include pictures, and team plaques are an effective and manageable way to display awards. This will set a benchmark for success while recognizing those who have excelled.